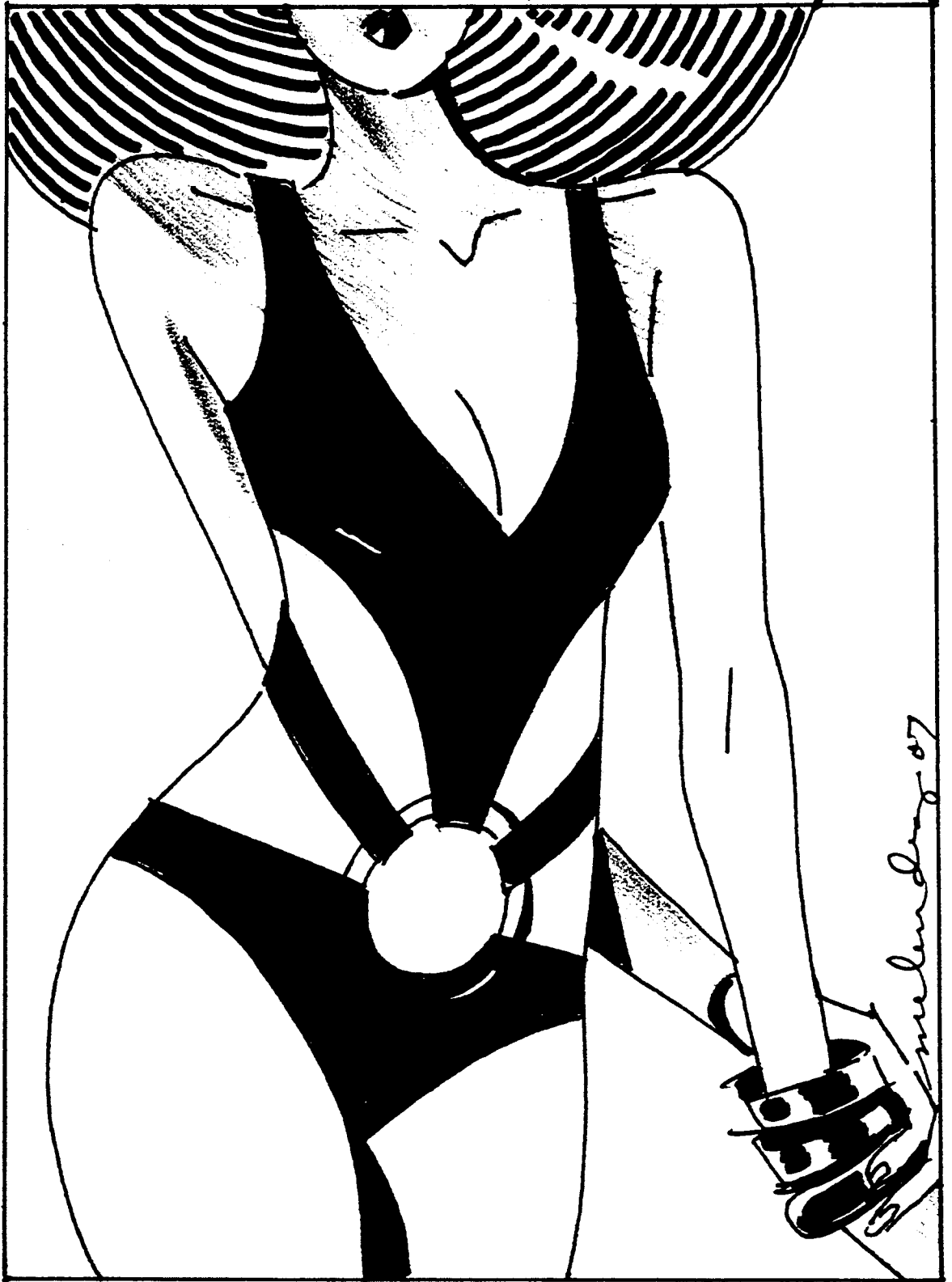


EXHIBIT B

AUGUST 2, 2007

TOBERREPORT

Swim '08



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HANDBAG DESIGNER 101

ENTERING THE NEW HANDBAG DESIGNER
DESIGNER 101

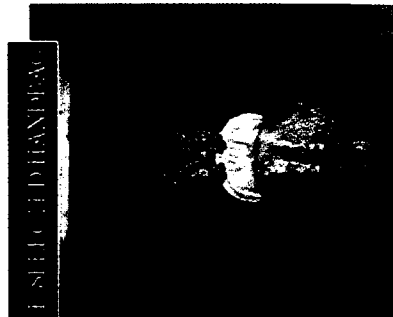


The first annual Independent Handbag Designer Awards were recently held at the Museum of the City of New York. It was an exciting evening for the winners, the invited guests and attendees.

The smart merchants of today's retail landscape understand the importance of fostering new talent. No one understands this better than Lincoln Morris, VP/DMM of Saks Fifth Avenue who presented score handbag designer **Carlos Falchi** with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Falchi's acceptance speech was heartfelt. He thanked his retail partners and family members who have nurtured his illustrious career spanning more than 30 years -- an inspiration to all of the winners and retailers who attended the ceremony.

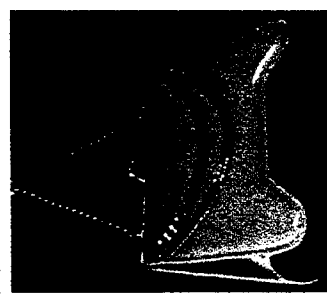
THE WINNER'S CIRCLE.

DESIGNER 101 NEW HANDBAG



Eleazar Lazarus
Designer: Julio
210 West 89th Street, Suite 5E
212-579-7122
e-mail: Julioeleazar.com
www.eleazar.com

AMY EVENING CLUTCH.



Me Char
Designer: Charmaine Ho, Parsons
New School of Design
130 West 18th Street, Apt. 8F
Mobile: 917-421-6589
e-mail: charmahoh@yahoo.com

VICTORY BAG.



CECILIA GOLD HONEY

Ignes Handbags
Designer: Maria Escoda
8 Shepard Market, Suite 135
London W1J 7JY
www.ignesbags.com



BAMBOO CLUTCH



DONNA TOTE.

Katherine Kwei
300 East 51st Street, Suite 1A
646-339-8365
e-mail: kathy@kathermekwei.com
www.kathermekwei.com

Handbag Designer 101
Contact the Guru: Emily Blumenthal
e-mail: Emily@handbagdesigner101.com
866-206-9667 x 2342
www.handbagdesigner101.com

The Handbag Designer Resource
646-209-1418

WWD MONDAY

Hoop, Hoop, Hooray

Questrom's New Quest: Retail Exec to Help Grow Junior Chain Book Shops

By David White
Alexis Quentron has another project: Quentron has been tapped as non-executive chairman of the 27-year-old Philadelphia-based jewelry chain, which was acquired Friday by Low Eapen Partners for about \$210 million. The announcement of the deal surfaced in a *WWD* report July 3 that Don Shops was up for sale.

Quentron has big plans for the 162-store chain. He told Low Eapen, where he is a senior adviser, he hopes to expand the company and also will be pursuing additional opportunities.

See News, Page 24



Women's Wear Daily

July 30, 2007

Circulation: 168, 491

Accessories

FINDINGS

For his first men's collection, Webster tapped into a range of inspiration, from medieval weaponry to Steve McQueen's 1968 line "Buffs." Notable pieces include the Mace and Cannon Band pendant and the Put Down ring, which resembles a miniature coffin covered in diamonds. The new women's collection, dubbed her and Foe, is focused on the combination of flesh and cat claws.

"It's easy and elegant at the same time," said Guy Lagrange, chief executive officer of De Beers. The collections hit De Beers stores in October.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Harvesting Designer 101 and the Fashion Center Business Improvement District held the first annual Independent Fashion Designer Awards at the Museum of the City of New York.

The award for Best Student Music Handling was won by Christopher Ho of NIS. The Best Handmade Pounding award went to JP Creativity of Salt-Southern Wailing. The Handing Designer XIX Audience Selection Handling award went to Julie Lawson of Klam, the Most Sociable Responsible Handling award was won by Maria Estrada of Urban Handmade and The

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

"I'm an independent
handbags designer and the
chance of being recognized
is like to none," said Emily
Blumenthal, who spearheaded
the effort. "We thought it would
be a great way to celebrate

A NEW TRE: Kohlberg and Associates Inc. Schiffer + Partners signed a licensing agreement for lifestyle bags and related accessories, including handbags, tote bags, backpacks, brief bags and wallets. The collection will make its debut in the summer 2008 season.

Seventy in 2002 is former developer and studio software developer Paul Drobish. Kibben has pioneered the urban vinyl toy movement and contains the work of such-known international graffiti artists, musicians, and graphic artists into collectible designer toys. Last year, Kibben introduced his collection of human apparel and accessories, sold exclusively in Kibben stores in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and in Europe New York, Cologne, in Paris and select specialty shops worldwide.

"Kawachi is an analogy creative brand that blends in many artistic disciplines into a holistic, holistic, Techno-style mix of color, form and emotion," says Schiller, chairman and chief executive officer of Schiller + Partners, said in a statement. "It's hip-hop meets Japanese anime meets modernism."

FEMMEL'S FLOWERS OF SHOCK: Two Femmel is taking his jewelry into strange new territory with an exhibition that features hairy gloves, grasshoppers — and even Cameroude. The post-Modern jeweler, whose designs often have blurred the relationship, at moments, will stage *Shovel*, an exhibition of pieces in unexpected contexts. It'll run from September 24-30 at 6 Burlington Gardens, in the former Museum of Modern Art wing of Lincoln Center.

"I wanted to look at a different way of displaying jewelry, what

MALE GROOM: De Beers introduced its newest collection this month, including a capsule line of men's diamond jewelry designed by British jeweler Stephen Webster.



is traditionally shown on the catwalk, at a dinner, or during a polo match," she French. "And I wanted the show to be entertaining and shocking."

Fennell's jewelry will be displayed among diamonds — and Art's own work is a life-sized hunchback of Notre Dame into the display. "I mean Chaudron is an unlikely jewelry maker. But he was a romantic character — and he was lost in love," says Fennell. He also said the exhibition is meant to highlight the "lost" middle ground of jewelry design. The sector has become so polarized, with great big rocks on one hand, and "diamonds decorated with diamonds" on the other. In the middle, there is crafted jewelry pieces that people cherish, and which are apt to become heirlooms.

CACACITA SPLENDID: For two decades, the Radio watch brand has been known as a pioneer in technology and design. This fall the brand celebrates its anniversary with the updated Cacacita by Radio, styled by Jasper Morrison, a visionary in his own field.

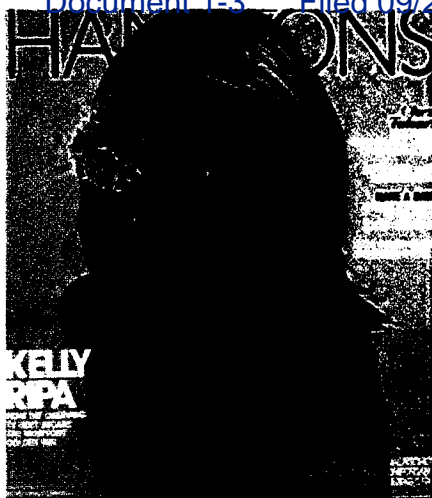
The watches will be retail in October at \$4,900. They come in five tones and variations, from white to pink gold. Only one of each of the two styles will be available in the U.S., and 10 of each style will be sold worldwide.

Mayor Marviano's Cautious Optimism

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HAMPTONS MAGAZINE
AUGUST 31, 2007
CIRCULATION: 60,000

LOOKING EAST | MUST-HAVES

Up & Comers

These three accessories designers are about to explode. Get their wares now!—S.M.Y.

JOY GRAYSON

Grayson is a name you'll want to remember—although take one look at her signature handbags and you'll never forget. The former director of design for MJ by Marc Jacobs handbags has struck out on her own with an eponymous collection. Grayson, now in its second year. This September, look for the new shoe collection to hit stores like Calypso. A New Yorker, Grayson uses the cityscape to inspire her work. She also understands how the city treats a woman's foot. "Many of our boots have lug soles, which have dual purposes: giving us ladies height—which we all want—but also comfort, creating the height without the pain that usually comes with a tall heel." Who can resist something fashionable and functional? Not us.

Bag (\$895) and boots (\$825), both by Grayson. Available at Calypso Christiane Cella, 21 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, 329-0033.



KATHERINE KWEE

Get to know her knots—Kwee's intricate handwork is destined to quickly become a fashion staple. Kwee learned design from her grandmother, who was a clothes artist for Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn, as well as a master Chinese knitter. After working in public relations at Louis Vuitton in Hong Kong, Kwee studied design formally at London College of Fashion and launched her own handbag line in the spring of 2007. Besides her more classic creations, Kwee's bags for fall will showcase exotic skins and Swarovski crystal detailing. Her designs are deeply rooted in her heritage and, in our view, they're absolutely fabulous!

Edna shoulder bag (\$890) and black Donna tote (\$1,725), both by Katherine Kwee. Available at Blue & Cream, 60 The Circle, East Hampton, 329-3392.



R&Y AUGOUSTI

Husband-and-wife team Ria and Yiouri Augousti have built a beautiful collection of contemporary designs. Ria, a furniture designer, and Yiouri, an architect, fused their passions to life and in business by launching a successful accessories and home-décor line. Having grown up continents apart—Yiouri in Cyprus and Ria in the Philippines—the pair met 20 years ago while studying in London. The two soon discovered that their compatibility went beyond the romantic—they complemented one another's sense of art, style, and design. Accessories by the talented twosome can be found at East Hampton's Blue & Cream, and if you're in the city hunting for fabulous home finds, make a beeline for Barneys New York, where their collection is currently the store's best-selling home-décor line.

Bronze bangle (\$212) and black horn bangle (\$175), both by R&Y Augousti. Available at Calypso Christiane Cella, 21 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, 329-0033. Red ostrich Minsudiere clutch by R&Y Augousti (\$295). Available at Christopher Fischer, 52 Jobs Lane, Southampton, 204-9090.





Vogue Pelle
March 2007
Circulation: 67,000

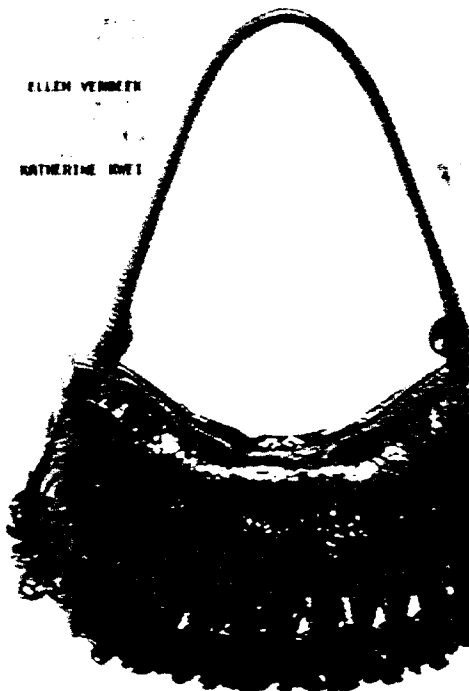
SUGGESTIONS

ANGLE SHOES E
 TRACOLE EFFETTO
 SECOND-SKIN NELLA
 SENSUALE COLLEZIONE
 DI ELLEN VERBEEK
 TAGLI, NODI E
 FRANGE E LETT-MOTIV
 DELLE HANDBAG
 DI KATHERINE KWEI
 ISPIRATE ALLA
 SIMBOLOGIA CINESE



ELLEN VERBEEK

KATHERINE KWEI



KNOTTY PERFORMANCE

Il nodo cinese, antico simbolo di prosperità, reinterpretato in chiave contemporanea. Questo è il signature mark della prima collezione di borse di Katherine Kwei, designer cosmopolita cresciuta tra Hong Kong, Londra e New York, che dalla nonna, costumista di Katherine Hepburn, ha appreso la pratica del knotting. Pochette e handbag dai complicati giochi di tagli e frange poi riannodati, dalle silhouette inconfondibili, in cui i pellami - water snake e agnello - diventano protagonisti, esaltati dall'effetto polished e da una ricca palette di colori tra cui spiccano il bianco, dal ghiaccio al latte, e il grigio perla. www.katherinekwei.com

The Chinese knot, an ancient symbol of prosperity, reinterpreted in a contemporary key. This is what characterises the first collection of bags by Katherine Kwei, a cosmopolitan designer who grew up in Hong Kong, London and New York, and who learnt the art of knotting from her grandmother Katherine Hepburn. Clutch bags and handbags with complicated games of cuts and knotted fringes, with unmistakable silhouettes, where the hides - water snake and lamb skin - are the true stars, enhanced with polished effects and a full array of colours, especially whites.



WWD
 September 13, 2006
 Circulation: 43,618

Kwei's Knot Following Trend

NEW YORK — It seems the fashion gene sometimes skips a generation.

Designer Katherine Kwei's mother and father work in real estate and finance, respectively, but for her handbag line launching for spring, Kwei looked to her grandmother for inspiration.

"My grandmother was a seamstress [in Hong Kong] who made clothing for Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn," said Kwei, who lives in Manhattan but resided in New York and Hong Kong growing up. "She taught me the ancient technique of Chinese knotting and I grew up watching her."

Kwei's namesake line incorporates that technique, called the Chinese eternity knot, which is said to symbolize love and happiness. The bags'



designs, which are done in pliable lambskin and water snakeskin, reflect the complex layered knot motif, whether on front of a toffee-colored tote in a braided style or curling beneath at the bottom of a salmon-colored clutch.

The collection contains no hardware or logo details.

"I saw a lack of bags without hardware" in the market, she said. "I didn't add any grommets or metal fittings because I think people are getting away from the beauty of the leather."

The nine-piece collection, which wholesales from \$275 to \$775, will make its debut at the Fashion Coterie show on Tuesday and is being represented by Cynthia O'Connor & Co. It already has been picked up by Villa Moda in Kuwait and Lane Crawford in Japan, which will launch the bags at retail in November.

Kwei is no stranger to accessories. She headed public relations for Louis Vuitton in Hong Kong from 1999 to 2002, after which she followed her desire to design accessories, attending the London College of Fashion in London, the designer worked for several British handbag firms, including Billy Bag, before heading to New York, where she interned in the accessories department of Zac Posen.

— Sophia Chabbot





WWD Accessories

Spring 2007

Circulation: 75,000

Family Affair

Rossi is back on wear scene—only he's designing it. After years as a manager at the company his father, Sergio Rossi, founded in the mid-1990s, Rossi decided to take a creative plunge into the world of footwear. In 1999, Rossi decided to take a creative plunge into the world of footwear. In 1999, Rossi decided to take a creative plunge into the world of footwear. In 1999, Rossi decided to take a creative plunge into the world of footwear.



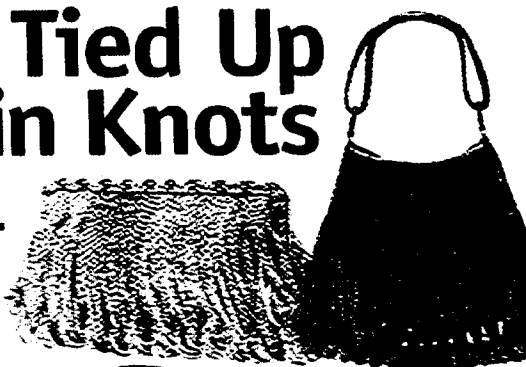
It's to do shoes that are feminine yet comfortable and aggressive because there's too much of that already, especially in ways," explains Rossi, 39. That said, Rossi admits he's embracing the technological envelope with sandals that feature a carbon fiber sole, making them unusually light, even though they have a wedge heel. Carbon fiber is used in Formula 1 cars because it's ultraresistant. It's all about the expression of pure design. It's added to the line. The shoes are finished off with straps made from ostrich, crocodile, metallic leathers and satin in cocoa, black, slate gray and white. The rest of the collection is a platform fest: Seventies floral patent leather, suede and matte croc. Prices range from \$480 to \$700 for carbon-fiber sandals. Other items in the line include Neiman Marcus (neimanmarcus.com) and Biffi (biffi.com). **Alessandra Flari**



in the Glamito Rossi line.

Tied Up in Knots

Katherine Kwei's Zara clutch and Zara bag.



Visiting one's grandmother might be a noble duty for some, but for other girls, it can be a genuine thrill. "My grandmother was a couturier who made clothing for Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn," marvels Katherine Kwei, 34, a designer who spent much of her childhood in Hong Kong visiting with her maternal grandmother, Wei Fun Koo. Kwei became an apprentice of sorts to Koo, who most notably did the costumes for 1937's *The Good Earth*. Kwei learned sewing and construction methods from Koo as well as the Chinese art of knotting, a technique for which she developed an affinity. "The eternity knot is a symbol of love and happiness," says Kwei, a onetime publicist for Louis Vuitton. It also happens to be the inspiration for her new collection of handbags (\$550-\$1,675 at Corso, Houston, 702.733.9442). The bags are knotted from strips of pliable lambskin and water-snake skin by five Chinese *shi-fus*, masters of the art who have passed it down from generation to generation. Yet she's no slave to tradition. She uses the knots in usual ways, such as in curls at the bottom of a clutch or a hobo.

—Sophia Chabbott



Katherine Kwei

BOUTIQUE PHOTO BY ROBERT MITRA

WATCHES SUNGLASSES HATS JEWELRY SHOES BAGS

Boutique's talent for creating "B" bags carried by the likes of Penelope Cruz and Lindsay Lohan is now being applied to a collection of leather belts (\$165-\$190 at boutique.com).

JEWELRY SHOES BAGS WATCHES SUNGLASSES HATS



Bing Bang will bring on more charm with its first collection of precious pieces called 88 Fine Jewelry (\$500-\$6,500 at Kawaii and Kind, Los Angeles, 310.659.8858).

Katherine Kwei Profile

The Fashion Week Daily

June 19, 2007

Circulation 46,477

The Daily TODAY'S OBSESSION

HOME NEWS FASHION SCENE TODAY'S OBSESSION GLAM CAM FASHION CALENDAR SIGN UP FOR THE DAILY WIN! ABOUT US

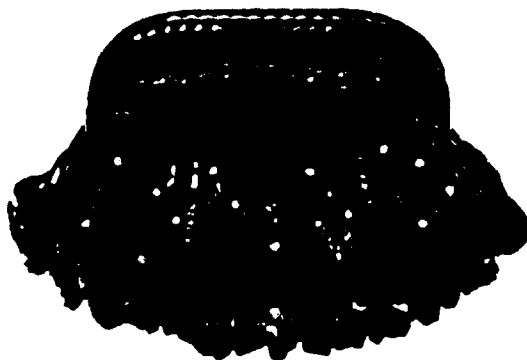
Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Tied and True Katherine Kwei's got your new go-to handbag

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

(NEW YORK) WHAT:
Katherine Kwei Donna
Evening Bag

WHY: Resourceful and determined as you are, you've been unable to find a have-it-forever, wear-it-whenever clutch that doesn't resemble the one in the manicured hands of every other chicette—until now. Enter Katherine Kwei. She recently released her second collection, but her creations transcend trend with a grace normally reserved for veteran designers. Maybe



Katherine Kwei's Donna Evening Bag

it's because her greatest influence was her clothier grandmother, who dressed Audrey Hepburn and taught the 34-year-old former Hong Kong Louis Vuitton PR girl the art of Chinese knotting. The result? A gaggle of hobos, totes and clutches as irresistible as the Donna, which is available in a cool plum, not-so-basic black and metallic silver. Lined with goat suede, backed with lamb skin, studded with Swarovski crystals, fringed, and tangled like lanyard, the watersnake skin bag is complicated and modern, yet elegant and timeless. Dress up your jeans or go black-tie—either way, you'll look helplessly chic with this unique new twist on old-time tradition.

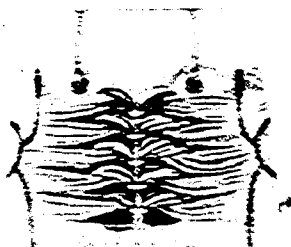
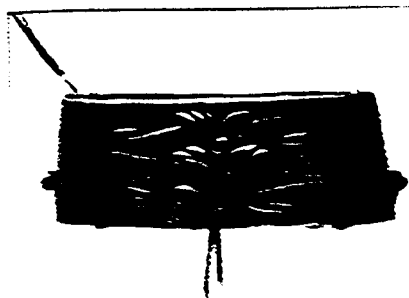
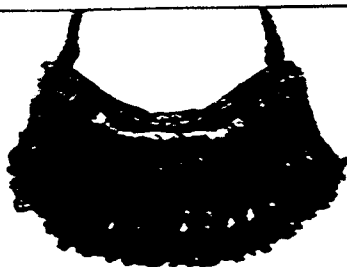
PRICE: \$735

AVAILABLE: Visit www.katherinekwei.com for retail locations

асемія

KNOT YOUR ORDINARY HANDBAG

KATHERINE
KWEI PUTS A
NEW TWIST ON
FUNCTIONALITY.



For a hippie at heart and love-birding scientist, Katherine Kemp says, She remembers her years spent working with sea whales and dolphins at a Hong Kong theme park rebuilding the discarded trails at Huiwensoa National Park and warning about the marine ecosystem while vacationing in the Bahamas, swimming over coral reefs, sitting in tents and basking in streams under the moonlight from the designers' then-topless

handbag. Her knowledge of design stems from her grandmother, a mother for Hollywood legends Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn. As a young girl, she would spend countless hours knitting, often on extravagant holidays with her grandmother, who was highly skilled at Chinese knitting and studied the elaborate embroidery patterns on old quilts and robes. Coming from her environment, a former Singaporean, Kwong educated with a M.A. in Design and Technology for Accessories from

London, England, at last. After working for many years designing for corporations, he and the folks at Bag of Bones finally landed in New York City, where he contacted a local distributor with the phone:

By the spring of 2000, when I began collecting from indigenous sources, I knew that as the country's economic and political situation improved, the fashion shops in Bogotá would be able to offer the kind of sophisticated pieces that I was looking for.

The inspiration for the designs came from my signature clothing, which at that time was the "turtleneck" jersey knit. "I have always loved the soft, unstructured feel of the piece," by catenating, bending, and compressing it into new shapes and silhouettes, and "using it enough to create my fashion philosophy: a simple, low-key experiment with form with the softness, elegance, and good weather in tropical shades of

It's like a clay mustard mold and a mallet. He still has the most ingenious of the three ways to keep even a snake from slipping out of a mud goat and ambushing his designs in the bushes (even any hardware and egg imprints). It's to use hardware with most, but always, except the notes, in terms of time neutrality. I have large pots of them, always in a room as late to the gate bags with shades that are simple and classic and that won't need hardware. Handbag enthusiasts take note: lower strutting and pica collection of, but he's not a position and bag bags is safe to be and a fashion standard. www.kathack.com

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BABY BESS

BARBIE BOLE

HORSE HEAD

EXCLUSIVE

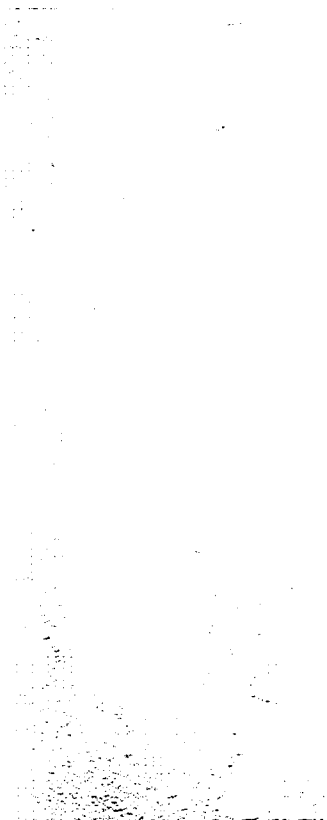
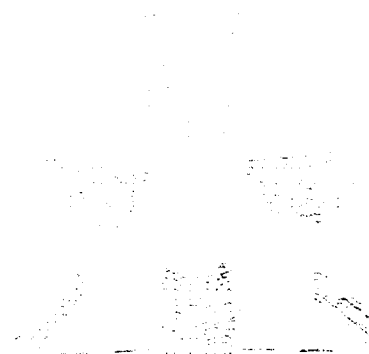
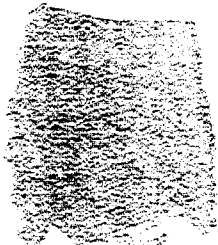
After the
Catwalk

Tatjana
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Rodeo Drive

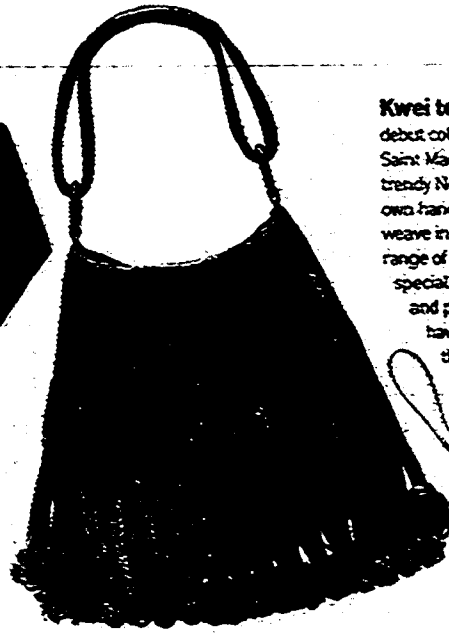


KATHERINE KWEI

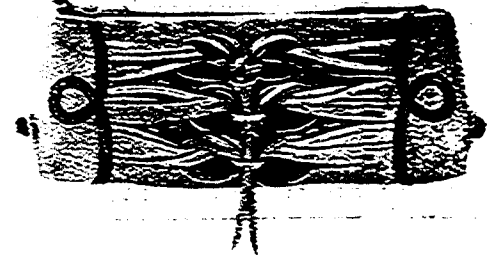
This debut by handbag designer Katherine Kwei incorporates the ancient tradition of Chinese knotting with a flair for modern accessories. The collection includes nine head-turning pieces showcasing the artistry and structure of sleek clutch and standout shoulder bag silhouettes. Leathers include water snake, lamb and goat, in a colour palette of white, mahogany, mustard, salmon, grey and beige, as well as an extraordinary snake pattern imprinted on



In the pink



Kwei to go Hong Kong gal Katherine Kwei is launching her debut collection at Lane Crawford. After graduating from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and training with trendy New York designer Zac Posen, Kwei decided to launch her own handbag collection. Revisiting her roots, she developed a weave inspired by the Chinese "eternity" knot and crafted from a range of skins including lambskin and water snake. Each bag is specially handcrafted by master craftsmen to capture good luck and prosperity. Despite the age-old techniques used, the bags have a surprisingly modern aesthetic. Standout pieces include the Zara tote in watersnake (left; HK\$10,500) and the Annika clutch (below; HK\$4,750), which is made from lambskin. The bags are available in several colours and have already featured in *Women's Wear Daily*. Available from next week at Lane Crawford, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, tel: 2138 3668. Jennifer Cardenas



CHINESE ETERNITY KNOT



TRENDSETTER



Katherine Kwai - from Louis Vuitton PR girl to New York handbag designer



Zara hobo



Zara hobo



Stella clutch



Zara hobo

KNOT'S
BRANDING

Former Hong Kong girl about town Katherine Kwai has launched an eponymous handbag label in New York. Praised for their originality, her bags reinvent the Chinese craft of hand knotting. Karen Ting checks out the collection.

When Katherine Kwai gave up a fledgling career in public relations to study accessories design, she knew she would start her own brand one day. "It's been like five years in the making," says the New York-based handbag designer. Kwai has been juggling between Hong Kong -- production of her bags is based across the border in China -- and New York since launching her namesake brand last year. Her handbags and clutches have received rave reviews from the international fashion press and the stylish set. Besides selling in selective boutiques in the U.S., they can be found in Harvey Nichols in Turkey,

was no nothing and and Mar... (text is partially obscured)

Kwai moved to London in 2002 to study accessories design at the prestigious London College of Fashion. For two years, Kwai worked for bespoke British apparel handbag designer Susanash Mander and Billy Bag Company in London. While in New York, she interned for famed designer Zac Posen, working on his spring/summer 2006

Zara hobo



Annela clutch

DAILY CANDY

Daily Candy Miami Edition
18,687 Viewers Per Day
April 10, 2007

From: today@dailycandy.com [mailto:today@dailycandy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:46 AM
To: Jennifer Wesselberg
Subject: DailyCandy Miami - Knotty Girls Need Love, Too

DAILY
CANDY
MIAMI



April 10, 2007

Knotty Girls Need Love, Too

Summer camp: two weeks of swimming in a murky lake, performing lame skits about cabin life, and hiding mom's brownies from the chubby girl. You couldn't tie a knot to save your life, but when it came to lanyards, your under-over skills were legendary.



Alas, your key chain reign is over. But that doesn't mean you don't still appreciate a good weave.

Retish designer Katherine Kwei's debut handbag line. Her ultra-high-end totes, hobos, and clutches are all made using the Chinese knotting skills she learned from her grandmother. Her traditional roots have also given Kwei an appreciation for detail and fine craftsmanship to create bags that are part work of art, part cowgirl chic.

Pair the fringe-tastic Zara tote with a snakeskin finish in either coffee, mustard, salmon, or putty with your favorite jeans and boots, and you're ready for gallery night.

Or even rodeo night.

If you're ever feeling, you know, campy.

Available at Capretto Shoes, 5122 Sunset Drive, South Miami (305-661-7767). To see styles, go to katherinckwei.com.

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COVERGIRL

Katherine Kwei Zara Tote

Publication: Cosmopolitan

Date: March 2007

Weaving Happiness

Busy with the Fall/Winter collection, up-and-coming Chinese New York designer, Katherine Kwei, hopes to weave the dream of a blissful life with her knot inspired handbags. The New York designer established her own brand after working in Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department before furthering her studies in England.

Cosmo: What inspired you to use knots to design handbags?

Katherine: As a child, I have spent time with my grandmother knotting cords for necklaces filled with jade and precious stones, and looking over the intricate embroidery patterns of old quilts and robes. Without knowing, I have accumulated an understanding of such traditional Chinese art. Because of this, I have used my childhood experience in designing my handbags.

Cosmo: Did your grandmother inspire you to establish your own brand of handbags?

Katherine: Yes, my grandmother was a clothier "stylist" for silver screen legends such as Katherine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn. Growing up in an environment filled with such passion for design gave me the opportunity to create my own brand of handbags. My mother also gave me unlimited support and treasured the handbags that I gave her, which are of my design.

Cosmo: Can you describe the design style of Katherine Kwei?

Katherine: My designs focus on the leather itself, trying to avoid accessories that are made with metal. At the same time, I hope that my design could be a timeless piece instead of a mere trendsetter.

Cosmo: What type of women would be interested in your design?

Katherine: I assume that they would love the unique and original design and yet value the functionality of it.

Cosmo: What, in your mind, is the most important element of a handbag?

Katherine: It has to be beautiful yet practical and give a sense of uniqueness.

Cosmo: What outfits would complement your handbags?

Katherine: Any outfit, be it casual wear, suits or evening wear, as long as the wearer is

confident in herself, the Katherine Kwei handbag would be a perfect match.

Cosmo: What other brands of handbag do you admire?

Katherine: Gustto from America, Bottega Veneta and Fendi.

Cosmo: Working in the Public Relations Department for Louis Vuitton in the Asia Pacific region for four years, what gave you the determination to start your own brand?

Katherine: Working in LV allows me to learn and experience the history of handbags and the essence of the craft. The experience has sparked my desire to create my own brand of handbags. I realized that being able to grasp the basics of design is important, which is why I pursue my M.A. in accessories design in England. After which I worked for handbags and accessories designers from England and New York.

Cosmo: What is the difference between working for others and having your own business? What challenges do you face?

Katherine: Operating my own business gives me more freedom and flexibility, however it requires discipline. Everyday, I would encounter unexpected problems. It is challenging and yet gives me great satisfaction.

Cosmo: If you didn't become a handbag designer, what would you be doing?

Katherine: I love nature, so I guess I would be a wildlife photographer or start my own school and become an arts teacher.

Cosmo: What is the most memorable experience in life? What do you treasure the most?

Katherine: Presenting the handbags that I designed at the show for my master's degree graduation is the most memorable experience. I would have to say I treasure my friends and family the most especially in the beginning of establishing my own business where I needed their support.

Cosmo: What is your next travel destination?

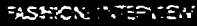
Katherine: I am longing to go to countries in South America, such as Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

Cosmo: What are your hobbies?

Katherine: When I am in New York and London, I enjoy visiting the museums, going to the cinemas and meeting with my friends.

The new look of leather handbags -- weaving the East and the West

In Spring-Summer 2007, Katherine Kwei launched her first handbag collection. With her signature "Eternity" knot-inspired weave she created a unique handbag style. At the heart of the design is the use of the finest Italian leather which is pliable enough to strip and knot. The bags are cut, woven and hand-knotted by master craftsmen, giving every bag its own temperament of the East and West. Katherine's designs also withstand the weight of carrying women's essentials. Of all the designs, Zara, her first line of collections which is named after her goddaughter, is the best buy item and is now available at Lane Crawford. Retail price: \$4,600 to \$6,900.



◆ 金生手寫經對「國家」與「聖王」的討論，與前章所討論的意識形態，有著高度關聯。

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Publication: JET Magazine

Date: March 2007

Profile:

Katherine Kwei, born in Hong Kong, lived in Athens, Dubai, Hong Kong and New York, joined Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department after graduating from Cornell University in Natural Resources. In 2002, she went to England alone to pursue her Master's Degree in Design and Technology for Accessories from the London College of Fashion. She has also been an intern for Susannah Hunter and Billy Bag Company. After attaining her master's degree she moved to New York and worked at Zac Posen.

Footnote: Katherine Kwei handbags are now sold at Lane Crawford.

J: Before working as a handbag designer, you worked at LV in Public Relations, What made you abandon your career and went to England to further your studies?

K: At the time, I wanted to setup my own brand of handbag. When I was a child, I've always wanted my own business but I've never thought I would be a handbag designer. When I joined LV in 1997, Marc Jacobs was not with LV yet. Handbags were still their core business. Through this job, I became extremely interested in designing handbags and the history and tradition of LV deeply affected me.

J: What did you learn during your internship at Billy Bag Company and Zac Posen?

K: Billy Bag Company is established in England. When I was an intern there, I have to help out in everything; from research on other handbag designs to production and choosing different colors. Zac Posen is in New York, I was involved truly "from the beginning to the end", from drafting to choosing the leather to fashion shows. I get to participate and learn every step of the way in handbag production. Most of the bags were manufactured in New York, which is why I got to know a lot of small handbag manufacturers and widened my understanding of this industry.

J: The "Eternity" knot is your signature-weaving pattern, where did this inspiration come from?

K: When I was a young girl, my grandmother used to tie a lot of different Chinese knots, occasionally, using jade as well. That is where I got the inspiration to incorporate these knots into my handbags. These knots symbolize love and fortune and I hope that anyone who buys my handbag would receive these blessings.

J: Other than the logo inside your bag, why did you insist on not putting any logo or sign on the handbags?

K: I believe that the "Eternity" knot is a good enough signature, which is why I didn't put any logo on the bag itself. In future, I hope to continue using the "Eternity" knot and reinterpret it every year.

J: Can you tell us about the central theme of your first collection?

K: Hong Kong is the first destination for my launch. It is one season prior to New York. The Spring/Summer collection emphasizes on texture and the collection is in mono color. The designs are not too flashy; I hope to give it a more classic look. The craftsmanship of these bags are complicated, I've deliberately hid the stitches, giving the handbag a cleaner look. For the next season, I will create bags with a more metallic feel. The design would be bigger and a little more exaggerated.

Photo captions:

Pale green Anneka clutch (lambskin) \$4,750.

Katherine Kwei, From LV Public Relations to Handbag Designer

When Katherine Kwei left her well-established career at LV in the year 2002, perhaps no one could comprehend what this pretty lady, who seems to have everything, was thinking. After seeing her first collection of handbags, you would appreciate her naive determination at the time. Without exaggerated design nor dazzling colors, these bags move you with its details.

- 1: Brown Zara Tote (water-snakeskin) \$10,500
- 2: Burgundy Zara Clutch (water-snakeskin) \$5,900
- 3: Grey Zara Hobo (water-snakeskin) \$10,000
- 4: Butter Stella Tote (Goat and Lambskin) \$12,450

International magazine WWD also reported on Katherine's latest designs.

The knots on Anneka Tote and Zara Clutch are variations of the "Eternity" knot.

Publication: Elle

Date: November 2006

Knotting East and West

A creative designer along with an unreachable concept could very often create a refreshing yet functional product. Handbag designer Katherine Kwei is one of the outstanding designers. In Katherine Kwei's Spring/Summer collection, which is about to launch, she combined the art of the "joining of two cords" from the Tang and Song Dynasties into her designs. She uses snake-print goat skin along with a color palette of white, mahogany, mustard and light orange to bond the elements of trend, tradition together with the culture of east and west.

Photo caption:

Katherine Kwei's new collection will be available at Lane Crawford in November.

泰式暖意

泰國的氣候，是熱帶的，也是熱情的。在泰國，你可以感受到一種溫暖的氣息，一種讓人感到舒適的氛圍。泰國的風景，是美麗的，也是多樣的。在泰國，你可以看到一片綠油油的稻田，一片金燦燦的稻田，一片藍湛湛的大海，一片白茫茫的雪山。泰國的風土人情，是淳樸的，也是熱情的。在泰國，你可以感受到一種真摯的情感，一種讓人感到溫馨的氛圍。



Katherine Kwei 給你祝福的手袋

Katherine Kwei 是一位來自台灣的設計師，她設計的手袋深受大眾喜愛。她的手袋設計簡約大方，充滿了藝術感。她的手袋不僅實用，還能為你的穿搭增添一抹亮色。她的手袋設計靈感來自於大自然，她將大自然的美麗元素融入到了她的手袋設計中，讓你的手袋充滿了生命力。

Katherine Kwei 的手袋設計，不僅注重實用性，還非常注重美觀性。她的手袋設計簡約大方，充滿了藝術感。她的手袋不僅實用，還能為你的穿搭增添一抹亮色。她的手袋設計靈感來自於大自然，她將大自然的美麗元素融入到了她的手袋設計中，讓你的手袋充滿了生命力。

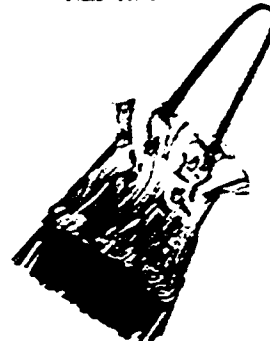
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"ZARA" 是 Katherine Kwei 最喜愛的系列。她用了三年時間，將這個系列的手袋，從最初的設計，到最後的成品，都完美地呈現了出來。ZARA TOTE \$10,000



"STELLA CUTOUT" \$1,000



"STELLA CUTOUT" \$1,000



"STELLA CUTOUT" \$1,000



"PINK LILY CUTOUT" \$1,000

Publication: Ming Pao Weekly

Date: November 4, 2006

Katherine Kwei Presents to You the Handbag of Blessing

It is not easy to leave one's work, go abroad to study and start a new career again. However, the petite Katherine Kwei has the courage and determination to do so. Katherine worked in Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department. In 2002, she left the dream job for most people and went to pursue a Master's Degree in Design and Technology for Accessories from the prestigious London College of Fashion in England. After graduation, she moved to New York and completed an internship with the famed Zac Posen.

Tanned and trendy, Katherine is deeply affectionate with Chinese arts and crafts. As a young girl, Katherine spent a lot of time with her grandmother folding wonton dumplings and knotting cords. These traditional arts and crafts were inspirations of her first handbag collection. She created her signature 'Eternity' knot, which is a symbol of good luck and happiness. Each handbag uses Italian leather including lamb and water-snake, cut and woven by master craftsmen. When carrying the handbag, the knots will move along with your every motion. Most importantly it is sturdy enough to withstand the weight of women's daily essentials. In the creative process, Katherine faces a lot of technical difficulties. However, she did not give up and sees it as a process in creation.

Since Katherine loves designing handbags, she's planning to launch a new line of "accessories for accessories". These designs are accessories for handbags and mobile phones. The designs are currently at the stage of "wear test" and will be launched end of next year. (Point of sales: Lane Crawford, Hong Kong)

Photo caption:

"ZARA" is Katherine's favorite line of design, she spent three years to develop it using traditional handbag styling and leather but with her unique weaving methods giving this line a one of a kind style.

Publication: Ming Pao Daily

Date: February 15, 2007

Katherine Kwei - a Tie to Adamant

Leaving Louis Vuitton in pursuit of her dream in designing

Katherine is a through and through Chinese. However, English was still used in the interview. "I was born in Hong Kong, before the age of one, my family has migrated to New York. Both of my parents have already come back and settled in Hong Kong but I am still living in New York. Since the production line of my handbags is in Dong Guan, my life is a merry-go-round between New York, Hong Kong and Dong Guan." Migrating to a foreign country, returning home and working in the Mainland, this, in some sense, concludes the life of the people in Hong Kong. The most important moment of Katherine's life would be the day when she left her position in Public Relations with Louis Vuitton in 2001 to further her studies in design in London. "I wanted to make some changes in my life at the time, I wanted to study design and create my own brand. After all, Public Relations is only a job; designing handbags is my dream."

Katherine's love for handbags came from her grandmother and mother. "As a young girl, my grandmother taught me how to tie all sorts of Chinese knots. This sparked my love in research on macrame and even sailor's knots. I also loved to study my mother's handbags at the time which has a lot of tassels." Handbags and knots come as a natural marriage to Katherine and so she created her handbags using "Eternal" knots. "A lot of people see knots as a decorative piece, but I can see their functionality as well."

After graduation, she brought her design to look for manufacturers in Dong Guan. With 12 of her finished handbags, she went to all the showrooms in New York. "New Yorkers are direct, competitive and money oriented. Female New Yorkers are surprisingly tough and competent". For the sake of her own brand, the gentle Katherine must be tough. "The first deal that I sign with a showroom was through a strong lady. The terms that she offered were very unfavorable to me. On my way home, I kept thinking it over and finally got the courage to get into a negotiation with her again. That was the first time that I take my stand." Finally, Katherine got into reasonable terms and her handbags are steadily being known in the market. "I am not asking everyone to like my design but I will not give up my concepts. This is what I

am learning every day from the day I have my own brand.”

Photo captions:

When Katherine stood up, I was surprised to find that, just across the table, she is so thin and petite. It seems like she would shatter with a gentle touch. Kwei would lower her face when she smiles, yet, after having her own business, she learned to be adamant and persistent.

Kwei believes that each design should have their own meaning, so she named her handbags after the names of her friends' daughters. Anneka featured here is her first product.

I didn't feel much when working with large brand names such as LV, but after establishing my own brand, I realize that it is not easy to maintain it. I love what I am doing and I will continue my work despite any difficulties.

Cutting the leather into strips and tie every knot by hand. The knots gave the bags its own unique shape and touch. (front: Zara Clutch \$5900, back: Zara Tote \$10500)



Publication: ZIP Magazine

Date: October 2006

Please Remember This New Name - Katherine Kwei

To me, women are born with an inseparable emotional tie with handbags.

During different periods, two of my friends left their original job and became handbag designers. One was a lawyer and became a handbag designer now based in Vietnam.

The other friend of mine is Katherine Kwei. She was a friend of mine who worked in public relations but now became a handbag designer based in New York.

The handbags that Katherine Kwei designed are mainly sleek clutch and tote bag/shoulder bag. They come in different sizes and colors. The two major elements of her design were the pliable lambskin and her signature Chinese knotting.

Talking about Chinese knotting, it all begins with the childhood story of Katherine Kwei. As a young girl, she learned how to fold wonton and knot cords for necklaces filled with jade; these all contributed to her fascination in traditional art.

These traditional crafts have paved the way for Katherine Kwei to become an accessories designer. Leaving her job in Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department, Katherine pursued a Master's Degree in Design and Technology for Accessories at the London College of Fashion in England. Upon graduation she worked for two British handbag companies including Susannah Hunter and Billy Bag Company.

After her internship, Katherine moved to New York and worked as an intern last year with Zac Posen on his Spring/Summer 2006 handbag line for six months before preparing the launch of her first handbag collection.

Her debut of Katherine Kwei New York Spring/Summer 2007 handbag collection will hit Lane Crawford in November this year. Right after the trade show at her New York showroom, Katherine Kwei's name immediately appeared in the leading fashion magazine - <WWD>. This indicates the recognition of her great potential.

As a modern women herself, Katherine incorporates her desire, needs and taste into